

# AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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### FIGL ARRIVES, WILL HEAD AUSTRIAN DELEGATION

Foreign Minister Leopold Figl will arrive in New York tomorrow, September 14. He will head the Austrian delegation to the Thirteenth U.N. General Assembly. Mr. Figl will be accompanied by Ambassador Martin Fuchs, secretary general of the Austrian Foreign Office, and two parliamentary leaders who will also be members of the Austrian delegation.

The Foreign Minister's stay is scheduled for about two weeks; his program includes a visit to Washington (September 25-26) and talks to the State Department.

State Secretary Bruno Kreisky, who will arrive in October, will then assume leadership of the Austrian group.

### "AUSTRIA AND THE PRESENT" ON NEW YORK EXHIBIT

On September 15, 16 and 17 an exhibition, "Austria and the Present," will be seen at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Culture and economy in Austria today will be presented in a comprehensive review.

### KAMITZ OUTLINES 1959 BUDGET

Finance Minister Reinhard Kamitz recently submitted departmental proposals for the 1959 budget, amounting to 50 billion schillings. (26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.)

But the Finance Minister had already announced that a cut in expenditures was envisaged for the coming year because of a decrease in public revenues during 1958. While the estimated 1958 budget called for approximately 40 billion schillings, the budget for next year, he said, should not exceed 38 billion. The overall deficit for 1958, estimated at 2.6 billion schillings, is more likely to hit 4.6 billion. Kamitz said, however, that the deficit increase was acceptable on the basis of market policy considerations and could be met with the aid of credit operations.

By allocating large sums from public funds, Austria was able to counter local effects of the U.S. recession in 1958, Kamitz noted. He added that budget expansion proved an absolutely justified measure. Current market recovery in the U.S. would have beneficial effects on Austria, too, he said. This development, he stated, makes it possible to base the forthcoming budget on reduced expenditures.

Budgetary receipts in 1958 had been estimated at 36.2 billion schillings but in fact will reach only 34.7 billion. This will cause the first deficit in many years in the regular Federal budget. According to the Finance Minister's estimates, 1959 receipts will total about 35.7 billion schillings. This seems to indicate a gap, Kamitz said, since implemen-

(Continued on page 2)

### SHARP RISE IN AUSTRIA'S GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT

A statistical survey shows that the Austrian gross national product amounted to 49.6 billion schillings — at current value — in 1950, and to 121.8 billion schillings in 1957. (26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) The most important contribution in 1957 came from industry and commerce with 53.3 billion schillings, followed by agriculture and forestry with 15.8 billion, trade with 12.2 billion, other services with 12 billion, public service with 10.5 billion, construction trades with eight billion, communications with 5.7 billion and utilities with 4.1 billion schillings.

The increase since 1950 in the various categories was widely different and relatively highest in the field of trade (190%). Other increases were: utilities, 173%; public service, 162%; industry and commerce; 158%; other services, 140%; construction trades, 136%; communications, 101%; and agriculture and forestry, 95%.

### WORLD BANK LOAN DISCUSSED

A five-member World Bank mission arrived in Vienna late in August to discuss a loan. Although the final use of such a credit is not altogether certain, it would seem that it might serve for the expansion of Austrian hydroelectric power.

At the same time, representatives of three American investment banks arrived in the Austrian capital. They are expected to prepare an Austrian emission of dollar obligations in New York as a result of the talks held in New York some time ago by Dr. Teufenstein, an official of the Austrian Finance Ministry.

The Finance Ministry will coordinate the negotiations between the World Bank and investment bank representatives on one side and the Austrian Investment Credit Corp. and the Austrian Power Corp. on the other.

### BANK NOTE CIRCULATION COVERED 106.3%

The Austrian schilling today is harder than ever: for the first time since the establishment of the Austrian Republic, that is for the first time since 1918, has bank note circulation been covered more than 100% in gold and foreign gold-based currency. Actual coverage on August 23, amounted to 106.3%.

According to a recent report by the Austrian National Bank, gold and foreign currency deposits on that day reached 15,529,000,000 schillings, while bank note circulation amounted to 14,617,000,000 schillings. (26 schillings equal

one dollar. Ed.) The result shows the coverage of 106.3%.

Although this result is partially due to two seasonably favorable events occurring at the same time — the high point in tourist traffic and the low point in monthly bank note circulation — further coverage around 100% for the next few months can be expected on the basis of seasonable business.

In the middle of 1952, gold and foreign currency deposits amounted to less than 8% of bank note circulation. By the end of 1954, coverage had risen to more than 80%, but decreased to 71% by the end of 1955 because of the financial effects of the State Treaty. Since then a steady increase, finally leading to full coverage and more, took place in spite of continued reparation deliveries under the Treaty.

### THE AUSTRIAN MONEY MARKET

The Austrian National Bank reported that total deposits in Austrian financial institutes at the end of the first half of 1958 had increased by 3.1 billion schillings as against the January figures. (26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) Total deposits amounted to 36,930,000,000 schillings. A tendency toward long-term non-withdrawal arrangements in savings and checking accounts was especially notable. For May alone, deposits at the disposal of banks for periods exceeding one year, increased by 123 million schillings. During the same month, withdrawals from checking accounts decreased by 244 million schillings.

During the period covered by the report — January-June, 1958 — the volume of money expanded by 1,290 million schillings, reaching 34,320 million on June 30. Of this expansion, about half a billion was due to the circulation of banknotes and coins. Small coins alone expanded by 190 million schillings as the result of an additional silver coinage. Another expansionist factor was the gain in credits — 2.5 billion schillings — which was roughly balanced by a growth in savings by 2.3 billion schillings to a total of 19,460 million.

### ECONOMY'S MOST PRESSING PROBLEM: LACK OF CAPITAL

Dr. Nemschak of the Austrian Institute for Economic Research recently gave a lecture on European integration. He declared that Austria's economic structure was in no way badly prepared for European integration. The biggest problem of the Austrian economy, he said, was the great lack of capital and the difficulty in obtaining financial props.

Dr. Nemschak explained that Austria can cover four fifths of its power needs on its own, namely expansion of hydro-electric power, opening of crude oil fields and natural gas sources, and intensification of coal production. He added that through further exploitation of its natural resources and expansion of investment goods, the Austrian economic structure was immeasurably more effective and balanced than before World War II. In this development it was characteristic, he said, that since 1937 investment goods production rose by 240% while production of consumers' goods increased by only 70%. At the same time, he added, Austria was much less dependent on raw material imports today than it was before the war.

The growing tie-up of the Austrian economy with foreign

nations, notably with the OEEC countries, showed, he declared, that the balancing of the Austrian economic structure was not dictated by an unreasonable autarchic trend. During 1957, no less than 17% of the gross national product was exported. The export volume today is two and one half times as large as in 1937 in spite of the fact that Austria had lost its customary clients in the European East and Southeast and had to gain a foothold in Western markets under stiff competition.

To judge Austria's competitive ability in the European market, it may even be more clarifying to cite the development of the Austrian economy during the past five years in relation to the development in other OEEC states, he said. Austria's industrial production, he stated, rose by 48% between 1952 and 1957, while the average OEEC nation showed only a 39% increase.

Dr. Nemschak also pointed out that the Austrian schilling — like the West German mark and the Swiss franc — today was among the most stable European currencies.

### GLEISSNER: "OUR INTEREST LIES WITH EUROPEAN INTEGRATION"

Heinrich Gleissner, governor of Upper Austria and former candidate for the Austrian presidency, declared during the recent annual meeting of the Economical Sciences Congress in Bad Ischi that Austria was interested in European integration for three primary reasons:

1. Austria's interest in integration of the European economic potential is based on historical experience.
2. Economic questions are of primary importance to Austria because of its export-oriented economy.
3. The cause of European integration has found a strong political echo in Austria.

### PLANSEE METAL WORKS

The Plansee Metal Works in the Tyrol is consistently growing in importance as a research and production center for pulverized metals. The organization already has built up an international reputation in the fields of technical and scientific research through the so-called Plansee Seminars which are held regularly. The Plansee Works have representatives in the major industrial nations the world round. A recent report shows that 78% of the total output of Plansee has been exported to 36 countries with continued and mounting success. The firm produces high melting point metals such as tungsten, molybdenum and tantalum as well as hard metals and diamond products.

### KAMITZ (Continued from page 1)

tation of various money bills passed by Parliament in 1957 will involve additional Federal expenditures amounting to 1.5 billion schillings. During the discussion of 1959 budget proposals, attention will be focused on the question whether the Government should make investments for productivity promotion, or whether it would be better to apply the social product in a less productive form.

At the end of 1957, Austria's national debt amounted to 10.1 billion schillings. By the end of 1958, it is expected to grow to 13.9 billion schillings, or 35% of the total expenditure.



## THE HUNGARIAN REPLY

(The following comment appeared in the semi-official *Wiener Zeitung* of August 26. Ed.)

For some months — or exactly since the Iron Curtain went down again on our Eastern frontier — news has been reaching us of repeated border violations. During recent weeks, these violations became so flagrant that the Austrian Federal Government could no longer ignore them. Protesting these infringements of international law, the government asked that measures be taken to avoid similar incidents in the future. The evidence in the Austrian note is so clear that Hungary might have been expected to take appropriate action. (The Austrian note is referred to in our preceding issue, which also contains the warning from the Interior Ministry mentioned below. Ed.) At first, this appeared to be the case when the acting Hungarian foreign minister declared that the incidents would be investigated and that everything would be done to avoid further border violations. But a few days later, acting Premier Antol Apro of Hungary delivered a speech which sounded a very different note; he claimed that the common border was being violated from the Austrian side by a "noticeable increase in tourist traffic" (one might ask how that could be a border violation); and moreover, that these tourists had "fired into Hungarian territory."

How absurd! In reality, Austrians served as targets for trigger-happy Hungarian border guards; these Austrians were harmless folk who worked their fields or pedestrians who had to use a road which led along the barbed wire within shooting distance.

This reply unhappily augurs no improvement of relations along the Austro-Hungarian frontier — not for the immediate future anyway. Thus, the warning of the Austrian Ministry of the Interior, which asked all who have no pressing business at the border to stay away from it, has lost none of its urgency.

Of course, the question arises what reason prompts the Hungarians to employ such methods; there cannot be any real doubt on their part that nobody wants to reach Hungarian territory via the forbidden road. The facts show that, as a rule, disillusioned Hungarians try to leave their own country for the West.

The answer is not difficult to find: official Hungary does not like us very well ever since the Hungarian crisis, when Austria did its humanitarian duty — acknowledged by all the world — of giving material aid and harboring a veritable flood of refugees. And here, one likes of course to forget that there was a first phase of the revolution during which Hungarian Communists, primarily, fled to Austria, and that officially these Communists received the same reception as later refugees who feared the revenge of the reconstituted regime. The painful remembrance of these weeks brought about the renewed descent of the Iron Curtain, the tightening of barbed wire fences, the increase in watch towers, and, in the final analysis, the shooting exercises in the direction of Austria.

One might suppose that now, years after the revolution, Hungary could arrive at a clearer judgment of the principles governing Austrian neutrality and practice a measure of

objectivity, without which good-neighborly relations will never come about. Hungary's reply to the Austrian protest unfortunately gives no evidence of good will. We shall not give up hope, however, that relations between the two neighboring countries, which historically shared a common fate and are now so sadly divided, will again become more bearable.

## THE AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

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## MORE AMERICANS VISIT AUSTRIA

Statistical reports on the development of tourist traffic in Austria during June, 1958, show that the number of overnight guests increased by more than 350,000, or 11%, compared with June, 1957.

The gain was not entirely due to foreign guests (15%). Domestic traffic also gained, although by a very much smaller percentage. The domestic increase in overnight accommodations was due to longer stays. While in June, 1957, 1,250,000 overnight accommodations served 317,000 domestic guests, this year 1,290,000 such accommodations took in 289,000 domestic travelers. This shows that the average stay has increased from 3.9 days to 4.5 days per guest. Foreigners, too, stayed longer than last year with an average of five days this year as against 4.5 days in June, 1957.

Except for travelers from Belgium, Luxembourg, France and Norway, the number of guests from other foreign nations which contribute greatly to Austrian tourist traffic has increased. Thus, nearly 13,000 more Americans came to Austria this June, an increase of 21% over June, 1957. The number of visitors from West Germany also went up considerably: overnight guests gained by 268,000 or 19%. Per night accommodations for German guests increased in Tyrol by 100,000; Carinthia, 93,000; and Salzburg 38,000. British visitors, too, accounted for a material increase with about 15,000 more overnight accommodations, or 9%.

In June alone, more than 500 million schillings (26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) were taken in in foreign currency, an increase of 40 million over last year. If the weather continues favorably, total receipts of 4.5 billion schillings in foreign currency for the whole year may be expected.

(In July, 1958, currency receipts reached a record high of 880 million schillings as against 835 million in July of last year. A report of the Austrian National Bank shows that receipts of German marks were particularly large. The schilling value of marks alone rose from 314 million in June to 590 million in July. But other nations, too, spend important amounts of tourist money in Austria. Dollar receipts, for example, increased from June to July from 57 to 77 million schillings, pound sterling receipts from 46 to 64 million schillings, Swiss francs from 23 to 38 million schillings, Dutch guilders from 22 to 31 million schillings, and Italian lire from eight to 13 million schillings.)

### MOTOR TRADE TO MEET IN VIENNA.

A congress of the International Office for Motor Trades and Repairs will be held in Vienna from Sept. 17-20. The international office is the top organization of all those associations which represent the interests of automobile dealers, auto repair and service stations, garages and gasoline stations. Delegates from 30 nations are expected to attend the meeting. More than 100 U.S. members have already announced their intention to participate.

### POWER PRODUCTION SURPASSES BILLION KW FOR FIRST TIME

In July, 1958, Austrian Power production for public consumption for the first time passed the one-billion kilowatt mark. Hydro-electric and thermal stations produced a monthly total of 1,008,000,000 kilowatt hours of energy. About 758 million kilowatt hours were domestically used. This denotes an increase of 6.8% over 1957.

### DRESS REHEARSAL AT SALZACH POWER STATION

Work at the new Salzach hydro-electric power station, some 30 miles south of Salzburg, has progressed sufficiently to allow a number of tests and tryouts of part of the installation and equipment. Thus the water reservoir near *Taxenbach* underwent thorough testing. During the tests, the waters of the Salzach River were backed up through the 800 meter (about 2,500 feet) backup channel; the water was then loosed through gates into 15 chambers from which it flows another 17 kilometers (just under 11 miles) into the power station at *Schwarzach* which has a capacity of 120,000 kilowatts. The power station will begin operations in a few weeks following further exhaustive tests of installations and equipment, especially of turbines and generators.

### ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY SHOWS PROGRESS

Development in the Austrian electrical industry during the first six months of 1958 was well balanced, a recent report showed. Most branches of the industry could count increases in production this year as they did last year. However, this generally favorable picture should not disguise the fact that several important branches face sales difficulties.

Production losses were noticeable this year in the same branches which last year already suffered from the recession. Production gains were shown in the following branches: electro-meters, electric motors, wet batteries, dry batteries, lead cable, insulated wire, electric bulbs, radio receivers, refrigerators, commercial cooling systems, and electric sockets.

### FUEL CONSUMPTION RISING.

The Federal Ministry for Trade and Reconstruction reported recently that during July consumption of fuel in Austria amounted to 51,373 tons of gasoline (45,079 tons in July 1957), 41,440 tons of diesel oil (as against 32,324) and 1,143 tons of petroleum (as against 1,311).

### NITROGEN OUTPUT UP

In the first six months of 1958, the Linz Nitrogen Works in Upper Austria produced 369,000 tons of fertilizer. Superphosphates totaled 53,000 tons as against 44,000 tons during the first half of 1957. A separate division, now operating three plants, produced 40,000 tons of sulphuric acid. This is 16,000 tons more than was produced a year ago.

### SERVING THE PUBLIC

Austria's largest social insurance institute, the Workers' Pension Insurance Fund, has made its administration a vital human affair. Measures were recently undertaken throughout Austria to make the Fund's administration procedures more up-to-date — with special emphasis on human relations. The importance of the project may be seen from the fact alone that the Fund administers the pension affairs of one and a quarter million workers, pays monthly pensions to 450,000 persons and handles four billion schillings annually. (26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.)

*Low Administrative Costs.* The administrative apparatus of the Fund costs only 1.89% of total expenditures; keeping them low is considered a matter of principle. Members' service is the keynote; appointments are so regulated that they need not wait in line. Interviewers and information personnel were trained by psychologists. They are friendly people trying to help — not an anonymous bureaucracy; every employee has his name printed on a name plate on his desk. When a person seeking help visits a social case worker, he is asked into a room where he can talk privately. There are no officials behind windows or barriers.

*Friendly Letters.* The friendly tone is also used in correspondence. None of the "official language" here. All letters start with "Dear Mr. ...." or "Dear Mrs. ...." and end with "Sincerely yours." A recent innovation is a letter from the Fund's director to new pensioners. It reads like this: "We are happy to be able to grant you the enclosed monthly old-age pension which you so richly deserve after a life of work. You have made this pension possible through your regular contributions to the Fund. We hope that you will enjoy many years of pleasant retirement. If the pension is not too high, we ask you to consider that the social progress achieved in recent years has made it possible at least to pay out a fairly substantial amount. The amount of your pension is not set by our institution; it is prescribed by law. If you have any questions or complaints, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. Again, all good wishes for the future and kindest regards."

*If you can't come to the Fund, the Fund comes to you.* Many of the old people find it difficult to write applications and fill out forms. People living in outlying districts sometimes can't take advantage of the Fund's modern new offices in Vienna. Thus, officials of the Fund frequently go to the pensioners and the insured in the small towns and out-of-the-way villages. There they hold regular "grievance days."

Of course, everything is done to get the pension money to the insured old folks fast. The Fund uses the latest office and accounting equipment, including IBM machines. (Last January 1, the pensioners got their increased payments

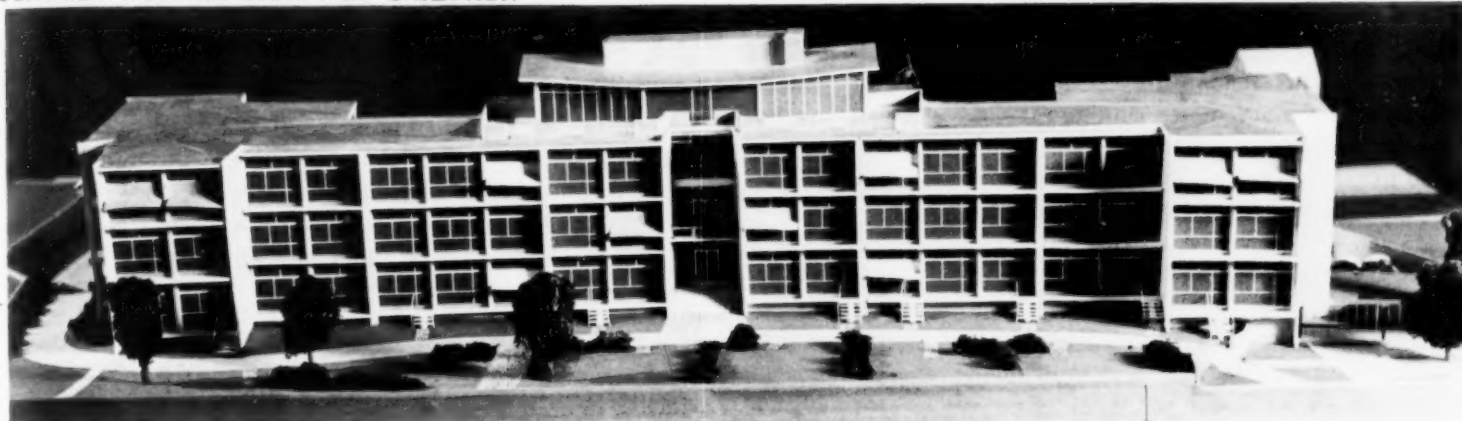


although Parliament had passed the relevant law only a few days before.)

*Your Complaints, Please!* All clients of the Workers' Pension Insurance Fund are told time and again to register whatever complaints they might have. A note tells them: "All employees of the Fund, from the director down to the

assistant office boy, know that they are only human and humans do err. Please tell us anything you don't like in our service. Don't hesitate to complain if you feel you have been treated unfairly or unjustly. Use the complaint boxes in our offices. They have been installed for you. We assure you that we shall carefully investigate every complaint."

### SCHOOLS FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN



Above: Model of new project now under construction in Vienna.

There are 32 schools and 36 special courses for handicapped children in Vienna alone and over 100 schools and classes in other parts of Austria where special care is provided for handicapped children by the Federal Government of Austria, state and city administrations.

Until 1918, there were only two public institutions for handicapped children in Vienna: one for the deaf and dumb and one for the blind, dating back 175 and 150 years respectively. These model institutions were widely copied in Europe, in the United States and in Central and South America.

Today, Vienna alone has 24 schools for mentally retarded children; a special school for the deaf and dumb; a day-care center for the physically handicapped; two special schools for the deaf and near-deaf; three classes for the visually handicapped; and 36 special courses for children suffering from speech impediments. Also, a special school for maladjusted children was created by the Austrian Government.

All these schools are supervised by physicians and psychologists, using the most therapeutic, educational and psychological methods, and trying to establish the vocational potential of each individual. The more serious cases, such as mongolism, are relegated to special classes which have now been consolidated into one specialized institute.

The hospitals of Vienna work closely together with teachers and physicians of these schools, and the curriculum has been expanded in all special high schools for handicapped children. It includes a one-year compulsory vocational training course prepared by federal, state and city employment offices throughout the Federal Republic of Austria.

After graduation, the employment offices, who delegate psychologists and social workers to give individual attention to each child during that one-year course, make sure that the high school graduate finds a job where he is able to do the same work as any other child of his age and receives the same pay. Specially talented high school graduates are aided

in obtaining higher education, such as college and university.

Children with failing eyesight and otherwise visually handicapped receive special instruction in a school of their own, where the normal curriculum is followed. Great care is taken to stabilize and, wherever possible, to improve the eyesight of these students. Visual, technical and therapeutical aids have been developed for their use, including reading material with large print, lenses and magnifying glasses, desks of a special construction adapted to their needs, and the locally developed method of "touch-vision," stressing typewriting, among other things.

Technical aids also form an increasingly important part in classes for the near-deaf. The audiometer and the "party hook-up" (with earphones) are standard equipment. This special school is run as a day-care center, providing an opportunity for close and prolonged supervision, as well as individual attention, demanded especially by those children who have become retarded or otherwise maladjusted as a result of their handicap.

Efforts are being made to detect speech impediments at the earliest possible stage, and special classes are devoted exclusively to the correction of stuttering and other defects even before school age. In this field, the "purely medical" approach has generally been abandoned in favor of a more comprehensive system which stresses educational as well as psychological needs; more than ever before, children are being urged and encouraged to participate actively in exercises designed to improve their enunciation.

Finally, there are the schools for the maladjusted where special emphasis is put on occupational therapy in a controlled environment. Co-education does not exist in this category. These classes aim at a maximum of diversification, assuring every youngster, within the limits of the city's resources, of the environment and attention best calculated to bring him or her back into the mainstream of life.

## A PARK FOR THE BLIND

A park will be especially built for the blind in Vienna. It will be ready in 1959 and will cover an area of about one fourth the size of New York's Central Park.

For the blind, an ordinary garden is like a labyrinth and sign-posts are of no use to them. In Vienna's special garden for the blind, all roads will be marked distinctly, they will be paved with natural stone, rippled artificial stone plates, gravel and asphalt. Their feet will give the blind complete orientation. All roads will be flat, without steps, and all curves very smooth. While guiding rails are planned, psychologists who have been consulted do not favor them, since blind people prefer to rely on their feet and cane, especially in surroundings planned especially for them.

Maps of the park in braille will be located at the main gates. The landscaping architects will provide flower beds with plants whose shapes enable the blind to recognize them by touch. These beds will be cut in trapeze form, so that they feel as much as possible with their hands. Containers with water plants are planned which the blind will be able to touch without bending.

Not only plants, but also small animals will be an attraction in this garden. It is intended to keep midget horses, goats, sheep and other small animals in a special zoo for blind children.

Furthermore, arrangements will be made for special fragrances. Part of the garden will be reserved for sweet-scented flowers.

Visitors will be able to turn on a speaker which will describe and explain to them particularly interesting plants. In a quiet section of the park, an acoustic fountain will provide a stimulating concert.

## LUMBER EXPORTS REACH NEW HIGH

Austrian cut lumber exports reached a new high last July, with shipments of 306,010 cubic meters (one cubic meter equals 35.3 cubic inches. Ed.) as against 291,266 cubic meters in June, 1958, and 287,937 cubic meters in July, 1957. The increase was particularly steep in exports to the Federal Republic of Germany which purchased 29,328 cubic meters more. A decline of 19,879 cubic meters was noted in exports to Italy.

## CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION DIPS

During July, 1958, Austria's crude oil production amounted to 237,656 tons as compared with 231,876 tons in June. The average daily production was 7,666 tons, or 63 tons less than in June. Natural gas production amounted to 49.6 million cubic meters (one cubic meter equals 1,308 cubic yards. Ed.) or 1.4 million more than in June.

## NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION

A new distributing plant for natural gas, owned by the Austrian Petroleum Administration at *Baumgarten* (near *Zwerndorf, Lower Austria*), has started operations. It is capable of drying and distributing more than two million cubic meters (one cubic meter equals 1,308 cubic yards. Ed.) of natural gas daily. It is designed to deliver gas from the *Zwerndorf* source through its southern pipe lines directly to Lower Austria and later also to industrial users in *Styria*.

The gas goes through the pipe system by natural pressure, and no pumps are used.

## A BASIC CHANGE IN EATING HABITS? AUSTRIANS EAT MORE WHITE BREAD

Wheat in bread and cake finds ever more favor with the Austrian consumer at the cost of rye, even though Austrians still eat three times as much black (rye) bread as white bread. Yet, during the first half of 1958, nearly 22 million pounds of white bread and cake were produced. This is about 440,000 lbs. more than during the same period of 1957. On the other hand, rye bread production decreased from about 59 million lbs. to 57 million lbs. As a whole, there is a loss in bread consumption, which in other nations, too, appears to go hand in hand with a rising standard of living. Expert opinion believes, however, that rye bread should be favored in the interest of public health; and does not welcome the change in eating habits.

# CULTURE AND SCIENCE

## ERNST HAEUSSERMANN - NEW BURGTHEATER DIRECTOR

The Education Ministry announced recently that the present director of the *Theater in der Josefstadt* has been appointed general manager of the Burgtheater at the retirement of the present chief, Dr. Rott, on Sept. 1, 1959. Dr. Rott is to be retained as artistic director.

When Haeussermann takes over the new post, he will head the theater on whose stage his father was once a leading actor. The new head of Austria's Burgtheater is no stranger to the U.S. When Austria was occupied in 1938, Haeussermann chose emigration. In 1939, he went to America, where he became Max Reinhardt's personal assistant and most intimate collaborator in Hollywood.

After the end of the war, he returned to Vienna to work, among other tasks, as program director of the U.S.-sponsored Red-White-Red radio network. He initiated the establishment of the *Kosmos Theater*, which presented plays and musical works by American authors and composers. His initiative also was responsible for a documentary film, "The Voice of Austria," which spread the message of Austria's reconstruction throughout the world.

In September, 1953, Haeussermann took over the management of the Theater in der Josefstadt.

## HEINRICH SCHNITZLER - ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AT THE JOSEFSTADT

The *Theater in der Josefstadt* announced recently the appointment of Franz Stoss as sole director of the theater, effective Sept. 1, 1959. Heinrich Schnitzler, a stage director at the theater, was appointed assistant at the same time. Schnitzler, born near Vienna in 1902, is a son of author Arthur Schnitzler. From 1924 to 1932, he worked in Berlin, and from 1932 to 1938 as a director at the *Volkstheater* in Vienna. In 1938, Schnitzler went to the United States where he became chairman of the drama department of the State University in Los Angeles. Since 1957, Schnitzler has again worked in Vienna as a director.



**1959 SALZBURG FESTIVAL PREVIEW**

The Salzburg Festival management has scheduled the performance of five operas during the 1959 season. They are: Strauss' "Die schweigsame Frau" (Silent Woman), Mozart's "The Magic Flute" and "Cosi fan Tutte," Gluck's "Orfeo," and a new opera "Giulietta" by Heimo Erbse, a composer living in Salzburg.

On the dramatic side, Hugo von Hofmannsthal's "Das gerettete Venedig" (Saved Venice) will open a special Hofmannsthal cycle. Of course, the traditional performance of that author's "Everyman" will remain a basic part of the Festival.

**1959 MOZART FESTIVAL**

The International Mozarteum Foundation just announced its program for the 1959 Mozart Festival, to be held January 18 to 28.

The Festival Week is scheduled to open with an orchestral concert by the Bavarian Radio Corporation Orchestra under Eugen Jochum with works by Haendel, Haydn and Mozart. On Jan. 21, Ira Malaniuk will sing lieder and arias by these three composers. On Jan. 31, the Barylli Quartet will perform chamber works by Haydn and Mozart. A second orchestral concert on Jan. 25, will feature the Mozarteum Orchestra under Heinrich Hollreiser. Another orchestral performance is scheduled for Jan. 27. This will feature only works by Mozart. Bernhard Paumgartner will conduct the *Camerata Academica* Orchestra.

The Opera Studio of the Mozarteum Academy will give performances of Haendel's "Acis and Galathea" and Haydn's "The Apothecary" on Jan. 24 and 26, both under Paumgartner's direction. The final day of the Festival, Jan. 28, will be marked by a performance of Mozart's "Don Giovanni."

**11TH ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH CONGRESS  
DEALS WITH REFUGEE PROBLEMS;  
1960 TO BE "MENTAL HEALTH YEAR"**

Austrian Minister of the Interior Helmer recently opened the 11th annual congress of the World Organization for Mental Health and Psychic Hygiene in the great auditorium of the University of Vienna. At the opening session, Professor Hoff of the University of Vienna read a letter of greeting by Federal President Schaerf.

Dr. Hoff also bade the delegates welcome in a speech in which he said that Austrian organizations had exerted their best efforts in refugee aid. The Minister of the Interior told delegates that after World War I, Austria had already become a haven for many homeless people. To date, he said, one and a half million refugees have passed through Austria and many thousands of them have made Austria their permanent home. After the abortive Hungarian revolution alone, he added, almost 200,000 persons fled to Austria.

The many difficulties which piled up in efforts to help the refugees had to be tackled, he said. Little attention, he declared, is ever focused on the mental health — aspects of refugee aid. The fact that the first necessity always is to help alleviate the refugees' material plight often tends to obscure secondary questions, Helmer said. Public under-

standing for the numerous small and big difficulties which are rooted in the state of mind of the individual refugee is not easily forthcoming. When the sensational eruption of the event is over, Helmer said, public interest usually wanes, and those private and public organizations and persons who have undertaken refugee care remain alone with their worries. Here, Helmer said, the Mental Health organization and its organs could be of invaluable assistance.

**Fears and Hopes of Refugee Children**

Drawings made by Hungarian refugee children were shown at the Congress. The drawing above was made by a child in response to the question: "What do I wish for myself?" The drawing expresses peaceful life within a real family in a real house.



And this is the reply of a child's drawing pencil to the question: "What am I afraid of?" The answer: The awful past and armed men.

The minister called attention especially to the mental difficulties and dangers connected with a long sojourn in camps. There were many dangers inherent in the so-called camp psychosis, he said. Among them was mental depression due to dissatisfaction over endless delays barring emigration to another country, he said. Great difficulties show up in the treatment of unaccompanied youths, especially when they show criminal tendencies. A special problem, he de-

clared, was found in a number of groups of old refugees who fight efforts to transplant them from camps into improved living quarters because they fear to be uprooted completely by another move. "We have had cases," Helmer said, "where old refugees died shortly after their transfer to the most excellent homes."

In conclusion, Helmer voiced the hope that "the year 1960, which shall be made the Year of Mental and Psychic Health through your organization, will bring as much progress in the field of mental health and human relationships as was made in increasing the knowledge of our physical world during the Geophysical Year."

#### **DR. HANS HOFF, NEW PRESIDENT OF WORLD FEDERATION**

Prof. Hans Hoff, head of the Department for Neurology and Psychiatry at Vienna University and vice president of the World Federation for Psycho-Hygiene, was elected to a one-year term as president of the international organization. Dr. Hoff is also president of the European and Austrian Societies for Psycho-Hygiene.

#### **U.S. TOUR OF TYROL FOLK MUSIC GROUP**

In the picture at right: Toni Praxmair (seated) and his group of folk musicians and dancers. They hail from the famous winter resort of Kitzbuehel. Praxmair has played in the U.S. twice before. He starts his third U.S. tour in mid-September. Following a two-week engagement at the Sunrise Village, Belmont, L.I., the group will follow this schedule:

#### **October**

- 6 - Northfield, Vt.
- 13 - Binghamton, N.Y.
- 14 - Auburn, N.Y.
- 15 - Glassboro, N.J.
- 16 - New Freedom, Pa.
- 18 - East Providence, R.I.
- 19 - Newport, Vt.
- 21 - Orono, Me.
- 22 - Concord, N.H.
- 29 - Columbia, S.C.

#### **November**

- 3 - Morehead, Ky.
- 5 - Dixon, Ill.
- 6 - Galesburg, Ill.
- 7 - Fort Dodge, Iowa
- 8 - Kansas City, Mo.
- 11 - St. Joseph, Mo.
- 13 - Poplar Bluff, Mo.
- 14 - Searcy, Ark.

- 17 - Wichita Falls, Tex.
- 18 - Baton Rouge, La.
- 19 - Hammond, La.
- 24 - Wichita, Kans.
- 25 - Newton, Kans.
- 28 - Wadena, Minn.
- 29 - Ishpeming, Mich.

#### **December**

- 1 - Albert Lea, Minn.
- 2 - St. Cloud, Minn.
- 3 - St. Paul, Minn.
- 4 - Duluth, Minn.
- 5 - South Bend, Ind.
- 6 - Green Bay, Wis.
- 10 - Decatur, Ind.
- 11 - Grand Rapids, Mich.
- 12 - Mount Clemens, Mich.
- 13 - Boston, Mass.
- 15 - Erie, Pa.
- 16 - Harrisburg, Pa.



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